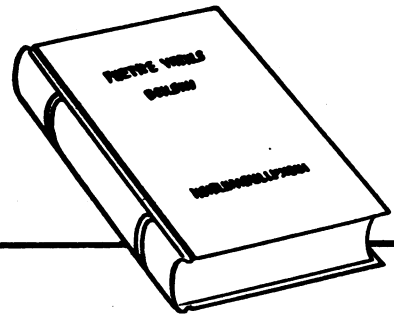

THE PHYSICIAN'S *Bookshelf*

OPHTHALMIC PLASTIC SURGERY—Third Edition—Sidney A. Fox, M.S. (Ophth.), M.D., F.A.C.S., Clinical Professor of Ophthalmology, New York University School of Medicine; Associate Attending Ophthalmologist, University Hospital; Associate Surgeon Ophthalmologist, Bellevue Hospital; Consultant Ophthalmologist, Bronx V. A. Hospital, Goldwater Memorial Hospital and Hospital for Joint Diseases, New York. Grune & Stratton, Inc., 381 Park Avenue South, New York 16, N. Y., 1963. 493 pages, $19.50.

The author is well known for his plastic surgery techniques. This book is the revised third edition. The book contains twenty-five chapters and four hundred eighty-five pages of text. It has been enlarged and many illustrations have been added.

An interesting approach is the more detailed assembling of historical data. This reinforces the observation that many techniques surprisingly were reported decades before the accepted originator published his report.

The present accepted techniques are well described and illustrated making this book a desirable additive to an Ophthalmology Library.

ALFRED R. ROBBINS, M.D.

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THE WAKING BRAIN—Second Edition—H. W. Magoun, Ph.D., Brain Research Institute and Department of Anatomy, University of California at Los Angeles; Veterans Administration Hospital, Long Beach, Calif. Charles C Thomas, Publisher, 301-327 East Lawrence Avenue, Springfield, Ill., 1963. 188 pages, $7.75.

Doctor Magoun has simply and lucidly described and illustrated the structures and functions of the human nervous system in relation to behavior. This relatively short monograph unfolds the brain as the master central correlating and coordinating organ of human behavior. It is a must for the neurologist to broaden his interest in behavior, to the psychiatrist to root his understanding of personality problems to human neurobiology. To the physician in general it orients him to understand the daily human problems of his patients as the product of the influence of environment on the ever maturing and evolving nervous system.

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SYNOPSIS OF PEDIATRICS—James G. Hughes, B.A., M.D., Professor of Pediatrics and Chairman of the Department of Pediatrics, University of Tennessee College of Medicine, Memphis, Tenn.; Chief of the Pediatric Service, Frank T. Tobey Memorial Children's Hospital (City of Memphis Hospitals); Staff Member and former Chief of Staff of the Le Bonheur Children's Hospital, Memphis, Tenn. With the collaboration of twenty faculty members of the University of Tennessee College of Medicine. The C. V. Mosby Co., 3207 Washington Blvd., St. Louis 3, Missouri, 1963. 1031 pages, illustrated, $9.85.

This synopsis consists of 25 chapters and an appendix. Nine chapters, those on the scope of pediatrics, psychological aspects of childhood, immunization, history taking and examination, digestive system, respiratory tract, urinary tract, the nervous system and infectious diseases have been written by Dr. Hughes. The remaining 16 chapters have been written by his colleagues at the University of Tennessee.

A synopsis is defined as "a general view" or a "summary." While the volume is just that, it is neither a comprehensive complete textbook nor a handbook small enough for the medical bag or pocket. It contains no references. The reviewer finds it difficult to see just what need this book will fill which has not already been met by pediatric texts now on the market which provide fuller coverage of the same material.

WILLIAM C. DEAMER, M.D.

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MEDICAL GENETICS—Widukind Lenz. Translated by Elisabeth F, Lanzl. The University of Chicago Press, 5750 Ellis Avenue, Chicago 37, Ill., 1963. 218 pages, $6.50.

The author has written an introductory text on human genetics for the physician. He takes a middle road: being not so lucid as Stern, not so bristling with mathematics as Neel and Scull, not so clinical nor dogmatic as Hsia, and not so biochemically oriented as Sager and Ryan. The book was originally published in German in 1961, but pertinent discoveries in the past two years have been added.

After a general consideration of the scope of human genetics and its relation to other disciplines, the nature of the gene in its traditional Mendelian sense and vaguer modern biochemical sense is well explained. Single factor inheritance in man is presented under the usual categories of autosomal and sex-linked, dominant and recessive types. The theoretical patterns are described, and specific human diseases are used to show how analysis of pedigrees and population data is directed to discover these simple patterns. The concept of gene frequency is systematically employed. The necessary mathematical procedures are kept on the level of algebra and are well integrated into the text. The Hardy-Weinberg law of genetic equilibrium is either ignored or forgotten. It is of course introduced anonymously and in pieces. The law and the assumptions under which it holds are worth specific consideration in any introductory text because they are the heart of population genetics. The terms in the large genetic glossary are brought up at appropriate times and sharply defined.

Among the influences modifying gene frequency, mutation alone is stressed. Selection is briefly introduced in the section which covers the polymorphisms and heterozygote advantage. Point and gross mutations in the somatic and germ cells are described. The genetic effects of radiation are carefully presented in more than usual detail for texts, which are not addressed to physicians.

The last chapter deals with "composite gene effects" or polygenic inheritance. First the better worked out nonallelic gene interactions in the blood groups and hemoglobinopathies are presented. Pentrance and expressivity are discussed at length. Finally the controversial topic of the participation of hereditary factors in common diseases is

outlined and then examined by consideration of such diseases as hypertension and diabetes mellitus.

The translation reads smoothly. There are a few small inconsistencies in translation and infrequent lapses in idiom.

The author's eugenic proposals are humane and directed at individual circumstances rather than public policy. They amount to a moral mutation in the son of Fritz Lenz, a distinguished German geneticist and an advisor along with other distinguished German geneticists to Heinrich Himmler in the writing of the first racist laws of the Third Reich in 1933.

MALCOLM L. RUSK, M.D.

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SYNAPTIC TRANSMISSION—Hugh McLennan, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Physiology, Faculty of Medicine, The University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada. W. B. Saunders Company, West Washington Square, Philadelphia 5, Pa., 1963. 134 pages, $7.00.

In 1897 Sherington coined the term "synapsis" to name the point of contact between neuronal processes. Doctor McLennan, in his monograph of 134 pages, has reviewed the main areas in which experimental investigations concerning the details of the operation of junctions between nerve cells and between neurones and effector cells have been undertaken. These areas of review are: the morphology of synapses, the concept of chemical transmission, synaptic events at motoneurones, synaptic events at other sites, including neuromuscular junctional transmission to striated muscle, transmission to vertebrate smooth muscle, vertebrate heart, giant synapse of the squid stellate ganglion, stretch receptor neurones of crayfish, neurones of the cerebral cortex, and others to draw attention to the very remarkable similarity and qualitative detail found at the synaptic junctions in a wide variety of situations; and a chapter on the "Transmitter substances and pharmacology of synapses."

This is an excellent, well-written, though not exhaustive review. Its value is further enhanced by a very good list of references.

DONALD MACRAE, M.D.

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DISINFECTED MAIL—K. F. Meyer, Ph.D., M.D., Director Emeritus George Williams Hooper Foundation and Professor Experimental Pathology, Emeritus, University of California School of Medicine, San Francisco, California, U.S.A.; in collaboration with the late Professor C. Ravasini, M.D., Trieste; Cecil G. Teall, M.D., Sutton Coldfield, England; Professor Marino Carnevale, Mauzan, Gap, France; Professor Dr. Kurt Wagener, Hannover, Germany; P. J. Drossos, Athens, Greece; Professor S. Petkovic, M.D., Belgrade, Yugoslavia; and Franz See, Vienna, Austria. The Gossip Printery, Inc., 116-118 E. 5th St., Holton, Kansas, 1962. 341 pages, $12.00.

To all members of the medical profession around the world but especially to his colleagues in California, Karl F. Meyer epitomizes the scholarly medical scientist. His grasp of communicable diseases: at the patient's bedside, at the laboratory bench, and by their fusion in epidemiology, is truly unique. His qualities as a medical historian are equally famous. From time to time we have glimpsed his renown as a philatelist. Now, in *Disinfected Mail*, we see a fascinating and monumental synthesis of all of these amazing abilities of our revered colleague.

In his Foreword, Claude Dolman deftly describes *Disinfected Mail as* "a fascinating compendium of information on postal arrangements, disinfection procedures, and epidemic visitations." After a broad Meyerian historical introduction, the monograph proceeds with a description of the techniques of disinfection used in each country. It is superbly illustrated with magnificent reproductions which appear to be three dimensional. The systematic philatelic classifications are presented in detail. As one would anticipate, our own San Francisco measures for disinfecting mail against plague are colorfully described.

Disinfected Mail is recommended to all professional people, be they physicians, historians, political scientists, microbiologists or philatelists, each of whom has kinship with Karl F. Meyer.

CHARLES E. SMITH, M.D.

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A TEXTBOOK OF NEUROLOGY—Third Edition—H. Houston Merritt, M.D., Professor of Neurology, Columbia University; Director of the Service of Neurology, Neurological Institute, Presbyterian Hospital; Vice President in Charge of Medical Affairs and Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, Columbia University. Lea & Febiger, 600 South Washington Square, Philadelphia 6, Pa., 1963. 803 pages, with 197 illustrations and 124 tables, $12.50.

The previous two editions of this well-known textbook of neurology have been well received and this third edition has added to it some uncommon and more recently described disorders, such as McArdle's syndrome, Hartnup's disease, and paroxysmal paralytic myoglobinuria. One sees a change in concept of pathogenesis of disorders in the removal of diseases of muscles from the heading of "Degenerative Diseases" to the heading of "Metabolic Diseases." For this edition every chapter has been rewritten or revised. Its 803 pages form a handy practical text designed primarily for the use of students and practicing physicians. It is expected that this will continue to be a well-received short textbook of neurology. Its list of references after each chapter allows the student to go to source material for further elaboration.

DONALD MACRAE, M.D.

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OCCUPATIONAL DISEASE IN CALIFORNIA ATTRIBUTED TO PESTICIDES AND OTHER AGRICULTURAL CHEMICALS—1961—State of California, Department of Public Health, Bureau of Occupational Health, 2151 Berkeley Way, Berkeley 4, Calif. Paperbound, 28 pages. Complimentary copies are available upon request, within limitations of the supply, from the Bureau of Health Education, California State Department of Public Health, 2151 Berkeley Way, Berkeley 4, Calif.

Those physicians who shy away from the words *occupational disease* should not be misled by the above captioned title. This report should be a must reading for every physician in California. Although it deals largely with the agricultural worker, we physicians should realize that our wives, our gardeners, our neighbors and our non-agricultural patients are frequently exposed to pesticides of varying toxicity.

The first fifteen pages are descriptive and present such subjects as the hazards in connection with the use of pesticides and other agricultural chemicals; the incidence of poisoning; workers at risk; geographic distribution; chemical and clinical types of disease; industries involved; some case histories and citation of fatalities. The remaining thirteen pages consists of reference tables and data.

It is a well recognized fact that California has the best system of reporting and recording the incidence of occupational disease of any of the fifty states. But the Bureau of Occupational Health of our state recognizes that it is not perfect due to the failure of physicians to report an occupational disease. In this report under review it is pointed out that in reporting a poisoning from a pesticide, many physicians fail to identify the chemical involved.

He who reads this report cannot but help being proud of the efficiency of the Bureau of Occupational Health of the State Department of Public Health and its competent staff.

RUTHERFORD T. JOHNSTONE, M.D.